

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 DHA-05 /084 W
-----126698 311032Z /12

R 310900Z AUG 77
FM USMISSION USBERLIN
TO AMEMBASSY BONN
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5201
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW POUCH
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 USBERLIN 2278

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, BQG, GE, SCUL
SUBJECT: SOVIET BLOC ACTIONS VIS-A-VIS BERLIN

REF: (A) USBERLIN 2258, (B) USBERLIN 2195

SUMMARY. LAST SEVERAL DAYS HAVE SEEN A WIDE VARIETY OF
COMMUNIST BLOC ACTIONS VIS-A-VIS BERLIN. WHILE MINOR IN
SCOPE, THEY REFLECT THE CONTINUING COMMUNIST REFUSAL TO
ACCEPT ANY VISIBEL SIGN OF BERLIN-FRG TIES AND WHAT THE
WEST BERLIN PRESS CONSIDERS TO BE DISJOINTED GDR POLICY
FORMULATION. END SUMMARY.

1. PRINCIPAL NEWS IN BERLIN THESE LAST FEW DAYS HAS BEEN
UNRELATED SERIES OF COMMUNIST BLOC ACTIONS WHICH, TAKEN
TOGETHER, PROVIDE A CAPSULE PHOTOGRAPH OF COMMUNIST
POLICY TOWARD THE CITY AT THIS TIME. FIRST ACTION WAS
SOVIET DECISION TO WITHDRAW AN INVITATION TO BERLIN
CULTURE SENATOR SAUBERZWEIG TO VISIT MOSCOW AS HEAD
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OF THE GERMAN HIGH SCHOLL ASSOCIATION. SAUBERZWEIG
HAD RECEIVED THIS INVITATION WHEN HE WAS IN THE FRG
BEFORE BEING CALLED TO BERLIN. THE SOVIETS OBVIOUSLY
DID NOT WISH TO ALLOW A BERLIN SENATOR TO VISIT THE
USSR AS HEAD OF AN FRG DELEGATION, EVEN IF THAT
DELEGATION CONSISTED ONLY OF HIM AND ONE OTHER
FUNCTIONARY.

2. THE GDR ANNOUNCED THAT THE CDU/CSU BUNDESTAG FRAKTION WOULD NOT BE PERMITTED TO VISIT POTSDAM AFTER THEIR MEETING IN BERLIN ON SEPT. 5. THIS DECISION FOLLOWED UPON A RECENT, PUBLICIZED VISIT TO POTSDAM BY THE BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG CDU FRAKTION WHICH HAD JUST MET IN BERLIN. ONE WEST BERLIN DAILY, DER ABEND, REPORTS THAT GDR DECISION WAS ALLEGEDLY TAKEN AT INSISTENCE OF SOVIET AMBASSADOR ABRASIMOV, STORY WHICH WE HAVE NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO CONFIRM. BESIDES FACT THAT COMMUNIST BLOC OBJECTS TO THESE MEETINGS IN BERLIN EVEN IF THE QA DOES NOT PROSCRIBE THEM, THESE LEADING CDU/CSU POLITICIANS HAD IN MIND EXTENSIVE PHOTOGRAPHING AT POTSDAM WHICH COULD HAVE RESULTED IN ANT-GDR PUBLICITY.

3. SOVIETS, GDR AND POLAND HAVE REFUSED TO DISPLAY FLAGS AT FUNKAUSTELLUNG ON GROUNDS THAT THEIR COUNTRIES ARE NOT PARTICIPATING DIRECTLY BUT ARE BEING REPRESENTED BY DEALERS. THIS LOGIC HAS NOT DETERRED ROMANIANS AMONG EASTERN BLOC AND A NUMBER OF OTHER COUNTRIES FROM DISPLAYING NATIONAL FLAGS UNDER SIMILAR CIRCUMSTANCES. HERE, THE SOVIETS APPEAR TO BE OPERATING UNDER THE DUAL MOTIVATIONS OF SEEKING IMPORTANT BUSINESS AT THE EXHIBITION AND THEREFORE PARTICIPATING IN IT, BUT REFUSING TO SHOW THEIR FLAG
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ON THE SUMMARY GROUNDS THAT THE EXHIBITION WAS OPENED BY A NUMBER OF FRG OFFICIALS INCLUDING THE FEDERAL CHANCELLOR.

4. REF A REPORTED SOVIET AND SUBSEQUENT POLISH AND HUNGARIAN DECISION NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN FESTIVAL WEEKS OPENING SEPTEMBER 4 ON GROUNDS THEY FOLLOWED ON HEELS OF ART EXHIBITION NOW TAKING PLACE UNDER SPONSORSHIP OF COUNCIL OF EUROPE. AT RECEPTION AUGUST 29, POLES MADE CLEAR AGAIN THAT THEY HAD HAD TO ACCEPT ORDERS FROM SOVIET UNION WHICH THEY DID NOT LIKE.

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INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5202
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OR 2 USBERLIN 2278

5. DURING SAME PERIOD, THE DIFFERENT CASES OF SIX
GDR DISSIDENTS OR PSEUDO-DISSIDENTS HAVE ATTRACTED
CONSIDERABLE PUBLICITY HERE. ARREST OF BAHRO (BERLIN
6984) HAS CONTRASTED WITH THE RELEASE TO WEST BERLIN
OF WRITER JUERGEN FUCHS, MUSICIANS GERULF PANNACH
AND CHRISTIAN KUNERT, HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS HEINZ
NITSCHKE AND HELLMUTH NITSCHKE AND FINALLY LYRIC POET
SARAH KIRSCH WHO ARRIVED IN BERLIN ON AUGUST 30.
REF B REPORTED ON INVOLVEMENT OF FRG GOVERNMENT
HERE THROUGH VOGEL CHANNEL IN ARRANGING RELEASE OF
SEVERAL OF THESE DISSIDENTS. WEST BERLIN SENAT
OFFICIAL WHO IS LONG-TIME PERSONAL FRIEND OF FUCHS
TELLS US THAT FUCHS HAD BEEN UNDER SEVERE PRESSURE
(BUT NO PHYSICAL ABUSE) TO "CONVINCE" HIM TO
SIGN REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO LEAVE THE DDR. HE
WAS TOLD BY VOGEL TO "EITHER SIGN NOW OR THEY'LL
NEVER LET YOU OUT." WHEN HE STILL HESITATED TO
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SIGN, FUCHS WAS TOLD THAT IF HE DID NOT SIGN SOME
25 OTHER PEOPLE ANXIOUS TO LEAVE THE GDR WOULD NOT
BE ALLOWED TO GO INLESS FUCHS JOINED THEM. EARLER
EXPELLEE WOLF BIERMANN HAS ALREADY BEEN IN TOUCH
WITH POPULAR MUSICIANS PANNACH AND KUNERT TO OFFER
HIS HELP IN ARRANGING PUBLIC APPEARANCE AND/OR

RECORDING DATES FOR THE PARI. AS IS TRUE OF ALL GDR REFUGEES, WEST BERLIN SENAT WILL PROVIDE LODGING AND NECESSARY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE UNTIL THEY CAN ESTABLISH NEW EMPLOYMENT AND OTHER CONNECTIONS. WEST BERLIN PRESS AUGUST 30 REPORTS THAT THE FAMILIES OF THOSE EXPELLEES WHO HAD FAMILIES HAVE NOW BEEN ALLOWED TO JOIN THEM.

6. COMMENT. PUTTING TOGETHER ABOVE DEVELOPMENTS LEADS TO CONCLUDE: THAT THE SOVIET UNION AND THE GDR HAVE NOT RELAXED AT ALL IN THEIR CAMPAIGN TO HINDER FRG-BERLIN TIES AND CONTINUE TO SEEK OPPORTUNITIES, NO MATTER HOW FAR-FETCHED (E.G. THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE ART EXHIBIT), TO PROFESS THEIR QUANTITATIVE THEOLOGY. THE GDR STANCE LOOKS TO WEST BERLINERS AS IF GDR DECISIONS ARE BEING TAKEN ON AN AD HOC, ONE-BY-ONE BASIS. WE DEFER TO THE EMBASSY TO ANALYZE WHY ONE DISSIDENT, BAHRO, IS ARRESTED WHILE OTHERS ARE RELEASED AND WHY ONE CDU GROUP CAN VISIT POTSDAM BUT NOT ANOTHER. WE NOTE HOWEVER THAT AN SEW PAPER IN WEST BERLIN, WAHRHEIT, CONTINUES TO GO EASY ON GOVERNING MAYOR STOBBE WHOSE VISIT TO THE U.S. WAS TREATED IN A RESERVED MANNER. CLEARLY UNDER ORDERS FROM STOBBE, THE SENAT IS DELIBERATELY REFRAINING FROM DISPLAYING ANY EXCITEMENT OVER THESE RECENT DEVELOPMENTS, A POSTURE NOT DIFFICULT TO MAINTAIN GIVEN THE RESOUNDING SUCCESS OF THE ART EXHIBITION AND THE

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RECORD CROWDS FLOCKING TO A FUNKAUSTELLUNG WITH SOVIET BLOC PARTICIPATION. WE UNDERSTAND HOWEVER THAT A PLANNED SPD PARTY VISIT TO THE GDR WILL NOW HAVE TO BE CANCELLED IN ORDER TO AVOID COMPARISON BETWEEN THE TREATMENT THE SPD AND THE CDU/CSU RECEIVE AT THE HANDS OF THE EAST GERMANS. GEORGE

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